

NEW PROJECT UPDATES

Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District—Ashley National Forest

November 2021

Greetings

This newsletter is intended to give a brief overview of new projects coming up on the district, what actions we propose, and what results we would like to see on the ground. Your comments are welcome about these projects during this initial scoping period. The schedule of proposed actions (https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php? 110401) has a complete list of projects on the Ashley National Forest.

Old Stockmore Ranger Station Conveyance

The Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest proposes to convey portions of the Stockmore administrative site to GSA as excess property. We anticipate that the property would then be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be held in trust for the Ute Indian Tribe. The portions of the admin site to be conveyed include the historic "old Stockmore" ranger station (parcel 1) south of Highway 35 and some excess property located north of the highway to the east of the horse pasture (parcel 2), located in Duchesne County, Utah. The historic Stockmore Ranger Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Parcel 1

Parcel 1 is located south of Highway 35 (see map on the next page). The property and buildings to be conveyed are south of the highway easement issued to the State of Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). This parcel is approximately 18 acres in size and is crossed by the Duchesne River (Township 1 North, Range 8 West, Section 19, SE¼SE¼; Section 20, SW¼SW¼).

Parcel 2

Parcel 2 is located north of Highway 35 and east of the admin site horse pasture fence. Parcel 2 is approximately 11 acres in size and is crossed by the Rhoades Canal pipeline.

This proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA as directed under 36 CFR 220.6(d)(7) - Sale or exchange of land or interest in land and resources where resulting land uses remain essentially the same.

About the Ashley National Forest

Ashley National Forest is located in northeastern Utah and Wyoming.

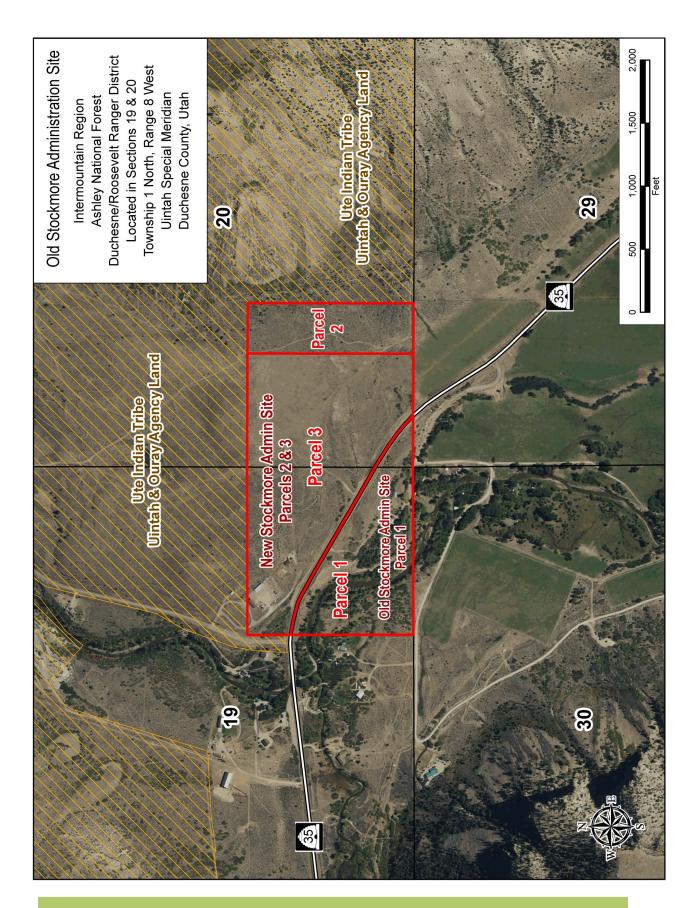
It encompasses 1,384,132 National Forest acres (1,287,909 in Utah and 96,223 in Wyoming). Of the total acres, 276,175 are in the High Uintas Wilderness. Elevations on the Ashley National Forest range from 6,000 feet to over 13,500 feet.

Remarkable features include Kings Peak (highest peak in Utah), Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway, and the Green River Corridor.

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https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61077



Argyle Slash Disposal Site

The purpose of this project is to reduce wildfire hazards to the Argyle Canyon Community and Ashley NF by creating a slash collection site for the community in Argyle Canyon to deposit small limbs, brush and other organic yard debris removed from properties in an effort to become fire wise. This mitigation effort should decrease potential for catastrophic wildfire and make the community a safer place for firefighters to operate during fire suppression efforts in the event of a wildfire.

Proposal:

The Forest Service would designate a less than 1 acre site for community members to drop off vegetation removed from their property one to two times a year. The material would then be piled using machinery and burned when there is snow on the ground. The site is located .03 miles east of Highway 191 and .03 miles north of the Argyle Canyon Road on top of a ridge. Location: N 39° 53' 07.5" W 110° 44' 30.6". The site would be fenced to prevent trash or other material from being dropped off outside of the designated drop-off days.

This proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA as directed under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) - Approval, modification, or continuation of special uses that require less than 20 acres of NFS lands.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61021



Argyle Slash Collection Site

Hells Canyon Road Bridge Replacement

The Hells Canyon Creek bridge provides access to Mill Park and the Center Park Trailhead. As such, the bridge and its safety are of high importance. The Forest Bridge Engineer along with the Regional Bridge Engineer determined that the existing bridge has exceeded its usable life.

Proposal:

Replacement of the Hells Canyon Creek Bridge would involve removal of the bridge and the wooden abutments. New concrete footings would be installed within the existing roadbed but farther away from the stream. A prefabricated bridge would then be placed on the new concrete footings. If the existing abutments are removed, the stream channel would be sloped back from the stream to the new footings, and riprap installed along the stream bank to protect the footings from scour. The new stream channel would be less constricting than the existing channel, which would be an improvement. The bridge is located at T2N R6W Sec 19 approximately 11 miles north of Mountain Home, Utah.

This proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA as directed under 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) - Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.



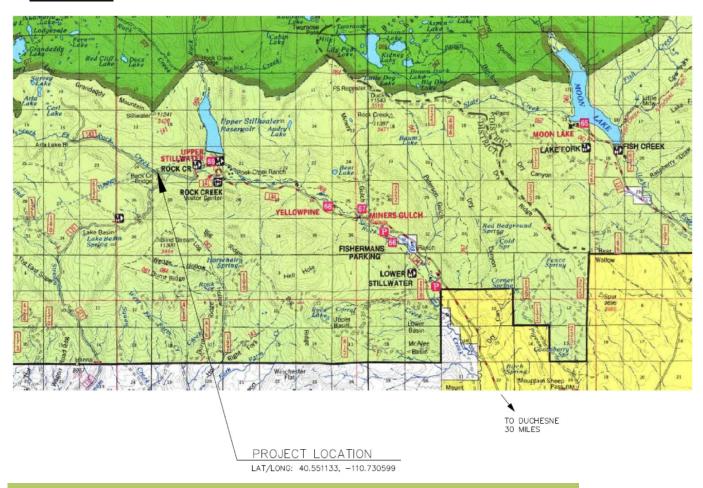
South Fork Rock Creek Road Bridge Replacement

The South Fork Rock Creek bridge provides access to the Blind Stream Road and a calcite mine and serves as an emergency exit for Rock Creek Canyon. As such, the bridge and its safety are of high importance. The Forest Bridge Engineer along with the Regional Bridge Engineer determined that the existing bridge has exceeded its usable life.

Proposal:

Replacement of the South Fork Rock Creek Bridge would involve removal of the bridge and the wooden abutments. New concrete footings would be installed within the existing road bed but farther away from the stream. A prefabricated bridge would then be placed on the new concrete footings. If the existing abutments are removed, the stream channel would be sloped back from the stream to the new footings, and riprap installed along the stream bank to protect the footings from scour. The new stream channel would be less constricting than the existing channel, which would be an improvement. Work would be scheduled for late fall to avoid the busy time of year and to time work for low flows in the stream. The bridge is located in T2N R6W, Sec 19 approximately 10 miles northeast of Hanna, Utah.

This proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA as directed under 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) - Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.



How to Comment

We are accepting comments on any of the projects described in the newsletter.

If you are interested in or affected by this proposal, this is your opportunity to make your concerns known prior to the point at which we will make a decision. Comments should be specific to the project and include information we should consider in reaching a decision. Please submit comments, via email or hard copy mail, by **November 30, 2021**.

Email: <u>comments-intermtn-ashley@usda.gov</u> (please put the name of the project your are commenting on in the subject line).

OR

Hard copy mail: Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District

Attn: Kristy Groves, District Ranger P.O. Box 981 (85 West Main)

Duchesne, UT 84021

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about any of these projects.

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Argyle Slash Disposal Location

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Hells Canyon and SF Rock
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